

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 191617  
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

ALL NATO CAPITALS

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FOL RPT KUALA LUMPUR 7655 SENT ACTION SECSTATE DTD 26 JUL 78

QUOTE: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KUALA LUMPUR 7655

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, MY

SUBJECT: VISIT OF STAFFDEL CLINE AND ENDRES TO MALAYSIA -

SUGGESTED STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR

REF: KUALA LUMPUR 7079

1. FOLLOWING IS THE STATEMENT SUGGESTED IN PARA 2 REFTEL  
FOR THE DEPARTMENT'S APPROVAL AND TRANSMITTAL TO STAFFER  
CLINE OF HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY.

2. STATEMENT TITLED "STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR ROBERT H.  
MILLER ON INDOCHINA REFUGEE SITUATION IN MALAYSIA."

3. BEGIN TEXT: MALAYSIA HAS BECOME THE COUNTRY OF FIRST  
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ASYLUM FOR THE VAST MAJORITY OF VIETNAMESE FLEEING  
THEIR COUNTRY BY SEA. SINCE 1975, SOME 23,000 SUCH REFUGEES  
HAVE SOUGHT AND BEEN GRANTED TEMPORARY HAVEN ON MALAYSIAN  
SHORES. IN RECENT MONTHS, THE NUMBER OF NEW ARRIVALS  
FROM VIETNAM HAS INCREASED MARKEDLY -- 13,000 HAVE ARRIVED  
IN THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF THIS YEAR, ALMOST 6,000 OF THEM  
IN MAY AND JUNE ALONE. ARRIVALS IN JULY ARE CONTINUING

AT THE SAME HIGH RATE.

4. THE REFUGEES COME FROM ALL ETHNIC BACKGROUNDS AND ALL WALKS OF LIFE IN VIETNAM. THEY ARE DOCTORS, LAWYERS, AND OTHER PROFESSIONALS. THEY ARE BUSINESSMEN AS WELL AS FORMER CIVIL SERVANTS AND MILITARY MEN. THEY ARE ORDINARY FARMERS AND FISHERMEN. THEY ARE ALL AGES, AND IN SOME CASES THEY ARE YOUNG PEOPLE AND CHILDREN ALONE, WITHOUT PARENTS OR RELATIVES. THEY HAVE ALL MADE THE SAME WRENCHING DECISION TO ABANDON THEIR NATIVE LAND AND TO SEEK FREEDOM AND A NEW LIFE FOR THEMSELVES ELSEWHERE. THEY ARE THE SURVIVORS OF A PERILOUS JOURNEY TO MALAYSIA IN FRAGILE, OFTEN UNSEAWORTHY SHIPS. HUNDREDS, PERHAPS THOUSANDS, OF THEIR COMPATRIOTS HAVE PERISHED ALONG THE WAY.

5. THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE HAVE GRANTED TEMPORARY HAVEN TO THESE REFUGEES WHO HAVE RISKED THIS DANGEROUS SEA VOYAGE FROM VIETNAM. IT IS THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT'S STATED POLICY TO TREAT THESE REFUGEES IN A HUMANITARIAN FASHION, AND THEY HAVE BEEN TRUE TO THEIR WORD. CENTRAL GOVERNMENT AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES HAVE, IN COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSION FOR REFUGEES AND THE MALAYSIAN RED CRESCENT SOCIETY, PROVIDED ADEQUATE FOOD, SHELTER, MEDICAL CARE, AND OTHER NECESSARY FACILITIES TO ALL. TO DATE, THEY HAVE ALSO ALLOWED SOME LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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1,500 MUSLIM REFUGEES FROM CAMBODIA TO RESETTLE PERMANENTLY IN MALAYSIA, UNDER THE AUSPICES OF LOCAL RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS.

6. MALAYSIAN HOSPITALITY IS NOW BEING SEVERELY TESTED, HOWEVER, BY THE RAPIDLY SWELLING REFUGEE ARRIVALS IN THEIR COUNTRY. NOT ONLY ARE THESE NUMBERS STRAINING AVAILABLE RESOURCES, BUT THEY ARE FAR EXCEEDING THE CURRENT RATE AT WHICH THE REFUGEES ARE ABLE TO DEPART FOR COUNTRIES OF TRADITIONAL RESETTLEMENT SUCH AS THE UNITED STATES AND AUSTRALIA. MALAYSIAN AUTHORITIES HAVE MADE CLEAR THEIR CONTINUED HUMANITARIAN CONCERN FOR THE REFUGEES, BUT THEY HAVE ALSO MADE CLEAR THEIR INCREASING APPREHENSION AT THE GROWING EXCESS OF ARRIVALS OVER DEPARTURES. THEY POINT OUT THAT THEY ARE ALSO RESPONSIBLE AT THE SAME TIME FOR SOME 90,000 FILIPINO REFUGEES WHO HAVE SOUGHT REFUGE IN MALAYSIA FROM THE FIGHTING IN THE SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES.

7. IN RECOGNITION OF THE MALAYSIAN EFFORTS, AND IN KEEPING WITH ITS OWN TRADITIONAL HUMANITARIAN PRINCIPLES,

THE UNITED STATES IS MAKING A MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TO THE RESOLUTION OF THE URGENT PROBLEM IN MALAYSIA. SINCE 1975, WE HAVE ACCEPTED OVER 5,000 INDOCHINA REFUGEES FROM MALAYSIA FOR RESETTLEMENT IN OUR COUNTRY, AND ANOTHER 1,5000 HAVE BEEN APPROVED FOR PAROLE INTO THE UNITED STATES AND ARE AWAITING SPONSORSHIP ASSURANCES. WE HAVE RECENTLY ANNOUNCED A NEW PROGRAM FOR THE ENTRY OF 25,000 ADDITIONAL INDOCHINA REFUGEES IN THE NEXT TEN MONTHS, OF WHICH ONE HALF WILL BE THOSE WHO FLED VIETNAM BY SEA. THE BULK OF THESE "BOAT PEOPLE" WILL BE TAKEN FROM MALAYSIA. WE HAVE CONTRIBUTED MORE THAN \$ ONE MILLION TO THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSION FOR REFUGEES FOR THE CARE OF REFUGEES IN MALAYSIA AND HAVE ALLOTTED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ANOTHER \$1.5 MILLION FOR THEIR TRANSPORT TO THE UNITED STATES.

8. WE HAVE EXPANDED OUR REFUGEE STAFF IN MALAYSIA, AND IT NOW CONSISTS OF TWO FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS AND FOUR REPRESENTATIVES FROM U.S. PRIVATE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES. ALL ENJOY THE CLOSEST COOPERATION WITH MALAYSIAN AUTHORITIES AND PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS AS WELL AS INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES INVOLVED IN THE REFUGEE PROBLEM. THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT AT ALL LEVELS HAS EXPRESSED ITS APPRECIATION FOR OUR SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE.

9. THE UNITED STATES HAS NOT BEEN ALONE IN THIS EFFORT. ON THE CONTRARY, THERE HAS BEEN SUBSTANTIAL INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT FOR THE REFUGEE PROGRAM IN MALAYSIA. THE PROGRAM IS COORDINATED OVERALL BY THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSION FOR REFUGEES, WHOSE REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE IS STATIONED IN KUALA LUMPUR AND WHOSE STAFF INCLUDES SIX PROFESSIONAL PERSONNEL AND A 1978 BUDGET OF \$2 MILLION. THE INTER-GOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR EUROPEAN MIGRATION ALSO IS MAKING A MAJOR CONTRIBUTION IN STAFF AND FUNDING IN THE ALL-IMPORTANT TASK OF FACILITATING REFUGEE TRAVEL TO COUNTRIES OF RESETTLEMENT. IN ADDITION TO THE UNITED STATES, AUSTRALIA IS IN THE FOREFRONT OF THESE COUNTRIES, HAVING TAKEN FROM MALAYSIA NEARLY 3,500 INDOCHINA REFUGEES FOR RESETTLEMENT ALREADY AND PLANNING TO ACCEPT SEVERAL THOUSAND MORE OVER THE NEXT TEN MONTHS. FRANCE, TOO, HAS MADE A MAJOR EFFORT, HAVING TAKEN MORE THAN 500 FROM MALAYSIA ALONE (AND MANY MORE FROM THAILAND). CANADA, NEW ZEALAND, AND SEVERAL WESTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES HAVE ALSO COOPERATED IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROVIDING A PERMANENT REFUGE FOR SMALLER NUMBERS OF THOSE INDOCHINA REFUGEES WHO HAVE MADE THEIR WAY TO MALAYSIA. IN ALL, OVER 10,000 BOAT REFUGEES HAVE ALREADY DEPARTED FROM MALAYSIAN CAMPS FOR PERMANENT RESETTLEMENT IN OTHER COUNTRIES.

10. DESPITE ALL THESE EFFORTS, HOWEVER, THE SITUATION IS BECOMING CRITICAL. THE NUMBER OF ARRIVALS CONTINUES TO EXCEED DEPARTURES. IN JUNE, FOR EXAMPLE, 2,700 REFUGEES ARRIVED, AND DESPITE THE FACT THAT DEPARTURES TO THE UNITED STATES SET A NEW MONTHLY RECORD OF 857, ONLY A TOTAL OF 1,689 LEFT FOR THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER COUNTRIES. SO FAR IN JULY, MORE THAN 2,700 REFUGEE HAVE ARRIVED AND ONLY 1,375 HAVE DEPARTED. SINCE MARCH, THE STANDING CAMP POPULATION HAS GROWN FROM ABOUT 5,400 TO OVER 13,600. MORE AND MORE, THOSE WHO MANAGE TO ARRIVE SAFELY FACE A LONG WAIT IN INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT CONDITIONS AS CAMPS BECOME MORE CROWDED. MANY STILL HAVE NO HOPE YET OF BEING ACCEPTED ANYWHERE FOR PERMANENT RESETTLEMENT.

11. IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT WE AND OTHER MUST DO MORE TO HELP RESOLVE THIS PRESSING HUMANITARIAN PROBLEM. ALONG WITH ITS OTHER ASEAN COLLEAGUES, MALAYSIA HAS CALLED FOR GREATER INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS IN THIS REGARD, AND THE ARITHMETIC OF THE SITUATION CLEARLY DEMANDS SUCH ACTION. I CAN IMAGINE NOTHING MORE IN KEEPING WITH OUR HUMANITARIAN PRINCIPLES AND TRADITIONS THAN AN EVEN GREATER EFFORT ON OUR PART TO HELP. NOTHING WOULD BE MORE WELCOME TO THE MALAYSIANS THEMSELVES, WHO HAVE ALREADY SHOWN THAT THEY SHARE THESE PRINCIPLES AND TRADITIONS WITH US BY THE WAY THEY HAVE WELCOMED AND CARED FOR REFUGEES ARRIVING ON THEIR SHORES.

12. I BELIEVE THAT, AS A GOVERNMENT AND A NATION, WE MUST CONSIDER THIS AS A LONG-TERM PROBLEM AND TAKE THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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NECESSARY MEASURES TO DEAL WITH IT ON THAT BASIS, AND THEREBY ENCOURAGE OTHER NATIONS TO DO THE SAME. FOR OUR PART, PERMANENT LEGISLATION PROVIDING FOR THE CONTINUING ACCEPTANCE OF INDOCHINA REFUGEES INTO THE UNITED STATES IN NUMBERS COMMENSURATE TO THE PROBLEM WOULD BE A SIGNIFICANT STEP IN THIS DIRECTION. CONGRESS HAS ALREADY PROVIDED BOTH MORAL AND FINANCIAL

SUPPORT IN GENEROUS MEASURE TO THIS EFFORT, SUPPORT  
WHICH HAS LITERALLY SAVED LIVES AND PREVENTED SUFFERING  
ON A LARGE SCALE. I BELIEVE IT CAN DO NO LESS IN  
CONTINUING AND EVEN INCREASING SUCH SUPPORT FOR THE  
SAME BASIC HUMANITARIAN PURPOSE. END TEXT.

13. IF DEPARTMENT APPROVES STATEMENT, IT MAY WISH TO REPEAT TO  
OTHER POSTS.

14. DECLASSIFY UPON RECEIPT. MILLER UNQUOTE VANCE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** SREF, MY, US, VM, (MILLER, ROBERT H)  
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